

ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
801 NORTH FIRST STREET
ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 8, 2024

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Ann Garza, President
Larry Cantu, Vice-President
Cezar Martinez, Secretary
Bobby Marroquin, Assistant Secretary
Erik Gallegos, Trustee
Mario Mesa, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent
Diana L. Silvas, Deputy Superintendent
Adriana Tagle, Assistant Superintendent
Eva Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer

VISITORS:	Maribel Trevino	Venita Vela Perales	Joe Trevino
	Buddy Toepfor	Myra Alaniz	Moses Estrada
	Nelda Sanchez	Maria Lucio	Cody Benavides
	Maythe Chapa	Sylvia Buentello	Alma Studer
	Holly Bockholt	Amie Tamez	Bette Cranford
	Lorraine Morales	Sandra Blanton	Frank Gomez
	Erlinda Torres	Karen Vaughn	Adan Botello
	Elizabeth Silguero	Norma Cornejo	Monique Morin
	Melanie Rodriguez	Diana and Rudy Lerma	Lisa Persyn
	Anisa Chavera	Suzane Gallagher	Barbara Rising
	David Rising	Mayte Rubio	Travis Zuick
	Belman Vasquez	Sara Trevino	Feliz Trevino
	Hope Rangel	West Ramirez	Laura Cueva

1.0

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:00 p.m., President Lori Ann Garza called this meeting of the Robstown Independent School District Board of Trustees to order.

ROLL CALL: Lori Ann Garza – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, and Mario Mesa – Present

1) Melinda Cortinas, Lotspeich Leadership Academy; 2) Maria Puga, San Pedro Fine Arts Academy; 3) Daisy Lopez, Robert Driscoll Stem Academy; 4) Gerardo Ledesma, Seale Jr. High School; and 5) Hilma Hunt, Robstown Early College High School. Also, she recognized Melinda Cortinas, Lotspeich Leadership Academy as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Hilma Hunt, Robstown Early College High School Secondary Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Cortinas and Mrs. Hunt will represent the school district at the Education Service Center Region 2 Teacher of the Year competition.

6B PROUD YOU'RE A PICKER AWARD

Veronica Sanchez recognized the following two school district employees for going above and beyond their job duties for the Proud You're a Picker Award: 1) Diana Vargas, Custodian at Robert Driscoll Stem Academy; and 2) Brandon Carillo, Technology Tech at RECHS.

6C RECHS FFA STUDENTS

Eugene Conklin and Claudia Deleon recognized the students that participated in the Nueces County Junior Livestock Show for their hard work and dedication. They announced their name, grade level, and their projects. They were very proud of the students for their accomplishments.

6D UIL ACADEMIC RESULTS

Jessica Juarez presented the UIL Academic students who participated in the UIL Academic Contest on February 17, 2024, at Tuloso Midway ISD. A ribbon or medal is issued to students who place in the top ten out of fifty students. The students were from the elementary campuses and the junior high school. A total of almost eight hundred students participated overall.

6E BOY'S AND GIRL'S POWERLIFTING TEAM

Gage Perry reported that the Girl's Powerlifting Team has won three times back-to-back state championships. The girls worked very hard and they were hungry to win again. The students could not have done it without the guidance and leadership of their head coach. Edward Margenau recognized each of the students present for their accomplishments at state, individually, and as a group. Also, he recognized and thanked the sponsors who helped them out.

6F RECHS COLORGUARD

Norma Martinez presented the RECHS Color Guard members who were present at the Board meeting. She reported that last school year they placed first and this school year they placed second in state. She was very proud of her students for all of their hard work and dedication to the team. Also, they are hosting a Mariachi Festival at 7:00 a.m., at the RECHS Auditorium.

5.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Trustee Cezar Martinez read the following statement: "The Robstown ISD Board of

Trustees welcomes comments from citizens on any agenda items or non-agenda items. Those wishing to address the school board must provide their name for the record and observe a three-minute time limit. During this time, the Board of Trustees may not respond to the citizen's concerns as per the Texas Open Meetings Act.” He also noted that public participation at Special Board meetings can only address items that are on the agenda. Public participation at Regular Board meetings can address any item on the agenda or not on the agenda. The following seventeen community members expressed their concerns in reference to the Avina Ammonia Plant: 1) Holly Bockholt asked the Board to deny the request from Avina for a tax abatement and that citizens of Robstown and Northwest deserved better. 2) Moses Estrada expressed his concern about Avina being very dangerous, and they needed a clean industry for Robstown, 3) Bette Cranford asked the Board to please keep the safety of the children in mind because they were the future, 4) Karen Vaughn asked the board members to consider the safety of the children and to deny the abatement to the ammonia company because it was not a safe product, 5) Yvette Villalobos asked the board members to consider the safety of the children, elderly, and community. The company Avina would be too close to home and they did not need to be an experiment. 6) Cody Benavides spoke against the Avina Plant and the abatements that the school district would be considering. He was concerned about the safety of the plant and about there being an ammonia leak. Also, an explosion could occur and put the community at-risk, 7) Myra Alaniz expressed her concerns about not wanting the ammonia plant in Robstown. She hoped that the company would not be approved. Her concern is also the amount of water that would be needed for the plant. 8) Buddy Toepfor expressed his concerns about ammonia plants not ever being placed in a residential area, and they needed to stand up and say no, 9) Marie Lucio presented a list of petitions and concerns on the ammonia plant from the community to the Board. She asked them to do what was right because the plant was a hazard to the community of Robstown, 10) Alma Studer expressed her concerns about not giving the company the tax abatement, allowing the community to vote for it, there could be long-term repercussions, and the plant could become a target, 11) Susan Gallagher expressed her concerns about if there was a shelter in place, the students would not be able to leave the school and be with their parents and no one could come in or out of Robstown. 12) Nelda Sanchez expressed her concerns about the after-effects of an accident and her concern was the children of Robstown. She asked the Board to keep the students in mind. She was all for economic growth but not at the safety of the children, 13) Sara Lopez expressed her concerns about the Avina Ammonia Plant coming to Robstown and voting no on the tax abatement, 14) Lorraine Morales expressed her concern about how wrong the ammonia plant would be for Robstown ISD and the water needed to run it.

Motion #7383 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to recess for five minutes.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

on position control. The administration will also be working with TASB on the school district's local policies during the week of April 23-24, 2024. He reviewed the process of the property that needed to be sold, and the request for competitive sealed proposals for the RECHS parking lot project.

9.0

PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9A

PRESENT CHECK TO ROBSTOWN ISD FOR PROFIT SHARING IN SUPPORT OF THE GOODBUY PROGRAM

On behalf of the Education Service Center Region II, Adell Cueva presented the the school district with a profit-sharing check for \$4208. The money came from the purchases made by the school district from Goodbuy vendors. School districts receive a certain percentage whenever they purchase from any vendor on the Goodbuy Program.

9B

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Adrian Tagle presented the Academic Update to the Board. She reported that all the work was aligned with the 4 Pillars of Teaching and Learning. She reviewed the following information with the Board: 1) MClass middle-of-the-year logistics and intervention, strengths, and opportunities for Lotspeich Leadership Academy, Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, and San Pedro Fine Arts Academy, 2) STAAR Data-informed intervention for Lotspeich Leadership Academy, Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, San Pedro Fine Arts, and RECHS, 3) The logistics, strengths, and opportunities for the STARR Interim results, and 4) Opportunities – They are ready to receive tremendous gains at the end of the year.

9C

ATHLETIC REPORT

Gage Perry reported that last week they competed in the district track and field meet in Calallen. The girls came in at second place with five athletes placing first place. Currently, in baseball and softball, they still have a chance to be in the playoffs. With the increased interest in wanting to use the school district's facility, they will be focusing on the facility use policy to make sure that everything is legal, consistent, and fair. His goal is to get the form online with a calendar of the availability dates of the athletic fields, etc.

9D

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Filiberto Tagle reported that they will be having an on-site visit on April 16, 2024, for the new police department at RISD. They will be having their spring safety committee meeting on April 22, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. They are still working on the fencing project, looking at completing the safety film at the RECHS and then continuing with Ortiz Intermediate. In the last couple of weeks, they have had two intruder-detection audits at Seale Jr. High School and San Pedro. They have received the safety and medical equipment that was purchased with the grant monies. The classroom window covers have been completed at four campuses and they need one more campus to go. Trustee Cezar Martinez announced that he would be attending the Texas Safety Conference on June 23-27, 2027.

9E MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE
Ronald Robles reported that the fence at San Pedro was up but they are still waiting on some hardware so that it can be fully completed. They will start the fencing project at Lotspeich next week. The roof at the baseball field will start next week and should be completed within ten working days. The HVAC project will start as soon as the company receives delivery of the equipment. The high school doors have been ordered and they should start sometime in mid-June or July; however, they should be completed by the time school starts. They continue to work on the roofs at Robert Driscoll Stem Academy and as soon as they finish with Robert Driscoll they will move on to another campus.

9F LIST OF BILLS
President Lori Ann Garza asked if anyone had any questions on the list of bills. There were no questions on the list of bills.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

10A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10B APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #7

10C FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Consent Agenda items as presented with corrections to the minutes of March 4, 2024, as presented (Correction that Trustee Larry Cantu was present from 8:27 p.m. until 9:27 p.m., and the vision and mission statements that are titled need to be revised to the current ones).

Motion #7385 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:29 p.m.

11.0 ACTION ITEMS

11A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RECHS PARKING LOT DESIGN

Ron Wheaton presented the concept layout of the RECHS Parking Lot Design for the Board's review and approval. He reported that several persons had already done a walk-through of the layout and made modifications. The one he was presenting was the final one. The model included the following: 1) The current layout increased the parking lot by thirty-six lots for a total of 345 parking spaces, 2) A total of twelve bus parking spaces that did not exist before are included, 3) Improvement of the overall look of the parking lot, and 4) Substantial entranceway and landscaping islands. He was trying to get the concept and layout approved so that they could move to the next step and include the and design of the drainage into the concept. The parking lot would be all

concrete. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended approving the RECHS Parking Lot design as presented.

Motion #7386 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:48 p.m.

11B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RECHS STADIUM PAVING UPGRADES

Dr. Marc Puig reported that this item was to pay Ron Wheaton's firm for engineering services for the RECHS Stadium Paving Upgrades. The cost of the services is going to be \$71,400. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended approving the purchase order exceeding \$50,000 for engineering services for the RECHS Stadium Paving Upgrades.

Motion #7387 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:49 p.m.

11C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ALLOWING ROBSTOWN ISD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS 20 PURCHASING COOPERATIVE

Dr. Marc Puig informed the board members that this item required a resolution allowing Robstown ISD to participate in the Texas 20 Purchasing Cooperative. The cooperative provides the school district access to purchases from Texas 20 Purchasing Cooperative. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended approving the resolution allowing Robstown ISD to participate in the Region 20, Texas 20 Purchasing Cooperative.

Motion #7388 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:52 p.m.

11G DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HMH INTO SCIENCE TEXAS AS THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM ADOPTION FOR K-5 AND 6-8
Dr. Marc Puig reported that the textbook committee recommended the adoption of the Science curriculum for the adoption cycle. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended approving the HMH Into Science Texas as the Science curriculum adoption for K-5 and 6-8.

Motion #7392 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:53 p.m.

11H DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORITY TO SETTLE SMALL CLAIMS PURSUANT TO SECTION TO 45.105© OF THE TEXAS EDUCATION CODE
Dr. Marc Puig recommended authorizing the superintendent the authority to settle small claims according to section 45.105© of the Texas Education Code. He reported that they have very frequent issues with car windows, doors, and building windows being broken as maintenance does lawn care. He was recommending reimbursing up to \$400 for any claim for the 2023-2024 school year. The person submitting the claim would have to have documentation on how the incident happened, etc.

Motion #7393 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
10:00 p.m.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION - SECTIONS 551.074

12A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

- 12B DISCUSSION OF EXTENSION OF NON-CHAPTER 21 AND ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACTS
- 12C DISCUSSION OF RENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, COUNSELORS, AND NURSES (RN's)
- 12D DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT-WIDE INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT FINDING RESULTS – ESC II/TEA/TXSSC
- 12E DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Motion #7394 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to go into executive session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.074.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
10:01 p.m.

Motion #7395 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to reconvene from the executive session.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Not present during the motion, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
11:43 p.m.

13.0 OPEN SESSION

13A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS, EMPLOYMENTS, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES
No action was taken on this item.

13B APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF NON-CHAPTER 21 AND ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACTS
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the extensions of Non-Chapter 21 and administrator's contracts as presented in the executive session.

Motion #7396 A motion was made by Trustee M. Mesa and seconded by Trustee L. Cantu to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
801 NORTH FIRST STREET
ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380

BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 29, 2024

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Ann Garza, President
Larry Cantu, Vice-President
Cezar Martinez, Secretary
Bobby Marroquin, Assistant Secretary
Erik Gallegos, Trustee
Mario Mesa, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent
Diana L. Silvas, Deputy Superintendent
Adriana Tagle, Assistant Superintendent
Eva Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer

VISITORS: Gage Perry Richard Gonzalez

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:00 p.m., President Lori Ann Garza called this meeting of the Robstown Independent School District Board of Trustees to order.

ROLL CALL: Lori Ann Garza – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, and Mario Mesa – Present

Present – 6

Absent – 0

Let the record show that a quorum of Board Members are present, that this meeting has been called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAAYER

President Lori Ann Garza led the audience and the Board in prayer.

3.0 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS FLAG PLEDGE**

President Lori Ann Garza led the board members and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag Pledge.

4.0 **VISION – OUR VISION IS TO IGNITE BRILLIANCE AND IMPACT LIVES BY PROVIDING TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**

Trustee Mario Mesa read the following vision statement: “Our vision is to ignite brilliance and impact lives by providing transformative learning opportunities that empower students for generations to come.”

MISSION – TO EMPOWER, INSPIRE, AND INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF, IGNITING THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES. TOGETHER, WE POSITIVELY IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Trustee Cezar Martinez read the following mission statement: “To empower, inspire, and invest in our students and staff, igniting the best version of themselves. Together, we positively impact our community and the world.”

5.0 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments from the audience.

6.0 **BOARD WORKSHOP**

6A **2024-2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP (TIER III TRAINING)**

Dr. Marc Puig reported that he would be presenting the Budget Workshop Tier III Training. He is a TEA-registered provider and the board members would receive two hours of credit for the workshop. He reviewed the following items with the Board: 1) Strategic Priorities, 2) Dates to move forward, 3) The challenges they are facing, 4) Healthy Fund Balance, 5) ADA, 6) All positions in the school district are aligned in Skyward, 7) Student Achievement, 8) Facility Improvement, 9) Safety and Security, 10) Customer Service/Culture, 11) Community Partnerships & Public Relations, and 12) Investment in Strategic Priorities with the Board.

7.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion #7400 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin –Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:12 p.m.